

MEMORIAL

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OF

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OF

INDIANA SOLDIERS' HOME ASSOCIATION.

REFERRED TO A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF ONE FROM EACH CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT, AND THREE HUNDRED COPIES ORDERED
TO BE PRINTED, NOVEMBER 17TH, 1865.

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REMARKS TO A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF ONE THOUSAND CO-
MISSIONERS DIRECTED AND THREE HUNDRED COPIES ORDERED
TO BE PRINTED MARCH 17, 1882.

INDIANAPOLIS,
THE STATE CAPITAL,

MEMORIAL

OF THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE INDIANA SOLDIERS' AND
SEAMEN'S HOME ASSOCIATION.

To the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

GENTLEMEN:—The undersigned Officers and Directors of the Indiana Soldiers' and Seamen's Home Association, most respectfully present a summary of the condition and plans of our organization, in the hope that your careful consideration of the whole matter may lead to such legislation as shall conduce to the best interests of our disabled soldiers, and the soldiers' orphans of our State.

As you will observe, the Governor, who is *ex officio* President of this association, has given you, in his message, so full a history of our organization and operations, that we deem it unnecessary to do more than present a few items not fully elaborated in that document.

The Governor informs you that, up to the date of his writing, forty-six disabled soldiers have been admitted into the Home, twenty-one of whom were enabled, after careful treatment, to go out again and care for themselves.

We deem it proper to say to you that, owing to the limited funds in our hands and at our command, we have been compelled to *limit* our benefactions to the most helpless and most destitute cases that were presented, while all applications in behalf of orphans were suspended until additional funds can be secured. For the same rea-

son soldiers were not retained in the Home longer than was absolutely necessary for medical or surgical treatment. Had we been able to afford suitable accommodations, we are quite certain that the number of occupants of the Home, during the time named, would have been doubled, if not *quadrupled*.

We have not dared to throw open our doors and extend a general invitation to all disabled soldiers, who need help, to come in, because we had neither the means to support, nor accommodations to render comfortable those who would come. Hence we have quietly done what we could for the worst cases coming under the observation of our agents, while the greater portion of our disabled soldiers are not aware that we are receiving any into our temporary institution. Indeed many persons in our State, not being so situated as to *see* the necessity of our enterprise, and being ignorant of what we are accomplishing, are even now opposing our efforts with the assertion that, "if we were to build a splendid Soldiers' Home, no soldier would come into it!" The best answer that can be made to this assertion, will be found in the extract from the Report of the Superintendent of the temporary Home, given below. That there are disabled soldiers who will never live in the Home, is doubtless true, for they have friends who can take care of them elsewhere; but wealth is not the heritage of the masses, who gave to the nation her soldiers. The only resources of most of our soldiers were their *physical powers*, and these being now destroyed or impaired, they have a right to expect from those for whose security they gave *their all*, some just recognition of their sacrifices.

Many of our disabled soldiers have families, and the father was their only dependence. That we owe them a support is beyond all doubt. *He* would have supported them had he not been disabled, and now that he is disabled in *our* behalf, *we* must do it. The same argument applies with still weightier import to the orphans of the fallen.

The plan that we propose is this: We would procure a tract of good land, sufficient to yield all necessary vegetables for the Home. Upon this ground we would provide suitable habitations, both for single men, families, and orphans. Having convened these all in one community, we would afford them all possible facilities for contributing to their own support. This would be done chiefly by

erecting work-shops, where such trades could be carried on as disabled men could work at—such as making brooms, baskets, brushes, shoes, &c. Here the remaining faculties of partially disabled men could be educated to good trades, whereby they might support themselves independently, outside of the Home, in a few years, if they should desire it.

By bringing these families into one community, we will have facilities for educating their children in a superior manner, being able to instruct them both in the ordinary branches of education, and also in a suitable *trade*, thus fully qualifying them for usefulness in after life; they, meanwhile, contributing by their labor, to their own support. The same advantages would accrue to the orphans, who, in addition to the education and trade there acquired, would be placed under the charge of suitable persons, who would, so far as possible, maintain the family relation, and perform a parent's duties in their behalf.

It is furthermore our desire to establish, at the earliest practicable moment, a special school for young men, wherein will be taught book keeping, penmanship, telegraphing, and other branches of practical business education. In this school, men who have lost an arm, or limb, may yet be so instructed that they can go forth, in a year or two, and live independently by their acquirements, being qualified both for civil pursuits, and for such official positions as a grateful and patriotic people would be disposed to confer upon them. As evidence of the necessity for such a school, we would say that numerous applications, by disabled soldiers, have already been made to us, for such advantages as such schools afford, and, although unprepared to accommodate all, yet some young men now at the temporary Home, are attending the Mercantile, and other schools of Indianapolis, and are making great proficiency in their studies.

We have not yet obtained sufficient data whereby to estimate the number of disabled soldiers, and orphans of soldiers, in the State who will need the benefits of this Home. We are confident, however, that the number of soldiers can not fall under five hundred, and the number of orphans one thousand. Some four weeks ago, we made application to the county Auditors of the State, for information on this point, but thus far we have but partial returns from nineteen counties, showing an aggregate of 173 totally disabled, and 565 partially disabled soldiers; and 427 whole orphans, and 1,633 orphans in

part—their fathers being dead. This number of disabled soldiers does not include those whose constitutions have been broken down in the service, which would largely increase the aggregate.

Taking these nineteen counties for the basis of a *proportionate* estimate for the whole State—which, however, is too *small* a basis for an *average* estimate, as none of those counties contain cities of more than four thousand—inhabitants and we have 828 totally disabled, and 2,760 partially disabled soldiers, and 9,036 soldiers' orphans in this State, besides a vast number of soldiers broken down by disease. This estimate, we are fully confident, will fall far below the *facts*, when they are developed.

With this statement of our plans and purposes, we appeal to you for aid in their accomplishment. Wherever our agents go, they find the common sentiment prevailing, that the Legislature *ought* to appropriate funds for this purpose, and this leads us to hope for your prompt and liberal action. Put us on a living and working basis, and with the proceeds of our shops and gardens, coupled with the usual success of our soliciting agents, we are hopeful for a career of great benefit to the soldier and orphan, with very little additional expense to the State.

We appeal to you as the representatives of a State whose soldiers have redeemed her from disgrace, and crowned her with peerless honors; as the representatives of a people who have borne much for their country's sake, but are willing to bear still more, if they may thus lighten the burdens of care, or want, or sorrow, that rest upon the maimed and shattered heroes that live, or the orphans of the noble dead.

The following extract from the report of Dr. Wishard, Superintendent of the temporary Home, is appended for your information:

“ Total number admitted up to November 17th.....	55
Total number discharged.....	25
“ “ “ died.....	1— 26
Total remaining.....	29

“Of the number remaining, eight have lost each one arm; one an arm and leg; four have lost arms; one has lost both feet; two are hopelessly consumptive; one has dropsy, and the remainder are

broken down with old age and general debility. Few of them have homes, and none have friends able to take care of them."

Respectfully submitted,

O. P. MORTON, President;
JAMES M. RAY, Treasurer;
WM. HANNAMAN, Secretary;
JOHN HOGARTH LOZIER, Financial Agent.

DIRECTORS.

PHILIP HORNBROOK, 1st Dist.	JOHN A. MATSON,.....7th Dist.
*_____ ,.....2nd "	S. KIRKPATRICK,.....8th "
JOSEPH I. IRWIN,.....3d "	JNO. B. NILES,.....9th "
WILL. CUMBACK,.....4th "	ISAAC JENKINSON, 10th "
*_____ ,.....5th "	JOHN U. PETTET,.....11th "
JOHN COBURN,.....6th "	

* The vacancies occasioned by resignations, in the 3d and 5th Districts, have not yet been filled.

